

Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2014 – 1:00 PM

Gallatin County Detention Center, Bozeman, Montana

A meeting of the Custer-Gallatin Working Group was led by John Prinkki, Carbon County Commissioner.
Attendees present:

<u>Attendee</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
John Prinkki	Carbon County Commission
Jim Hart	Madison County Commission
Joe Skinner	Gallatin County Commission
Pierre Martineau	Gallatin County Commission
Barb Cestero	Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Kevin Germain	Lake Mountain Land Co.
Jeff Schmidt	Red Lodge Mountain Ski Area
Jerry Furtney	RY Timber
Scott Brennan	The Wilderness Society
Earl Atwood	Beartooth RC&D
Jennifer Madgic	Sen Tester's Office
Jane Johnson	Sen. Walsh's Office
Lisa Stoeffler	USFS
Amy Waring	USFS
Dan Stosek	Congressman Daines' Office
Kathryn QannaYahu	Enhancing Montana's Wildlife and Habitat (EMWH)
Nancy Schultz	Gallatin Wildlife Association
Earl Atwood	Beartooth RC&D

Names in bold denote representatives of seated members

At 1:00 pm Chairman Prinkki opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

Introduction of members and guests. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves and identify their affiliation or representation.

Meeting Agenda:

Time	Topic	Lead	Outcomes
1:00	Opening and introductions	Prinkki, Atwood	Welcome, introductions, agenda reviewed, ground rules clear, Aug. meeting minutes approved
1:20	Working Group Guiding Documents <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mission Statement• Operations Manual• CGWG Membership	Prinkki, All	Agreement on mission statement, Edits to Operations Manual identified (if any)
1:40	New participants' interests (within the scope of the mission statement) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What issues should be addressed?• What are the desired outcomes?	Atwood, All	Revisit preliminary list of focus issues/areas, add new items as identified
2:30	Break		
2:45	Forest Service Program of Work <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How a program of work is developed	Gardner, Sienkiewicz, Goettlich	Participants understand how the FS develops a program of work and how/when input could be provided
4:15	Wildfire Disaster Funding Act (S1875, H.R. 3992)	Prinkki, FS, All	Decide on CGWG course of action, follow-up assignments made
4:30	Old Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communications, website	Prinkki, All	Discussion on information dissemination
4:45	New business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agenda items, assignments for October meeting• Other	Prinkki, All	List of October agenda items, follow-up assignments
5:00	Adjourn		

Chairman Prinkki presented the agenda. Minutes from the September meeting were reviewed. Approval of the minutes was moved by Joe Skinner, seconded by Marty Malone. **Motion Approved.**

Membership. Applications for membership in the collaborative were presented by the following organizations:

Jerry Furtney, RY Timber, Inc.

Jeff Schmidt, Red Lodge Mountain Resort, Inc.

Barb Cestero and Joe Josephson, Greater Yellowstone Coalition (co-representatives)

Kevin Germain, Lone Mountain Land Co. / Big Sky Chamber of Commerce

Marty Malone moved to accept and approve the membership applications, and to seat the new members on the collaborative as voting members, seconded by Joe Skinner. **Motion Approved.**

Organizational Documents

Working group guiding documents were put on the table for discussion. A minor correction was noted in the mission statement adopted in September, and adopted by general consent among the members, which reads:

“To ~~recommend, promote~~ promote, recommend and advocate programs and projects within the Custer Gallatin National Forest that will provide for the public health, safety and general welfare of our communities under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of our communities through a transparent, collaborative and mutually supportive process within a diverse and committed stakeholder group.”

Discussion turned to the draft Operations Manual, primarily regarding the Membership section of the manual which outlines the representation structure of the collaborative.

Under Section 1. Tasks and Functions of the Working Group, it was pointed out the second bullet contained phrasing which was likely a throwback to model language that is not applicable to the CGWG operations. The phrase “such as fish key watersheds, for example” was recommended for deletion.

Revision to the organizational categories were discussed, including the addition of one seat to represent Recreational and Economic Development to provide representation for non-commercial private landowners (large, private land holdings), and the addition one seat designated as ‘At Large’ to provide a voice for interests that are difficult to classify. The resulting list would be:

ORGANIZATION	Number of Board seats
• County Commissioners	7
• Conservation NGO’s	4
• The skiing industry	1
• Agriculture/Ranching	1
• Quiet recreation	1
• Motorized recreation (summer/winter)	1
• Hunting	1
• Fishing	1
• Commercial outfitters (permittee)	1
• Mining and mineral development	1
• At Large	1
• Timber	1
• Recreational and Economic Development	<u>1</u>
Total Seats	22

Marty Malone made the motion to incorporate the above changes into the draft operations manual, and adopt the manual as amended. The motion was seconded by Joe Skinner. **Motion Approved.**

Forest Service Presentation. Lisa Stoeffler and Amy Waring, representing the CG Forest, presented information to the Collaborative concerning the South Bridger Interface Project, a project that is was challenged through litigation. The project was brought forward as a case study to enhance the group's understanding of opportunities and methods available to weigh in with support, advocacy and recommendations regarding forest projects.

Key points included:

Our support or input on a project can be both formal and informal.

Informal support would include outreach and communications with regional entities like media, landowners, fire departments and community groups. If we decide to take position on a project, we should develop talking points to provide a focused message and look for venues to discuss the project. We should emphasize local impacts and objectives in the process. Most importantly, we can be a forum to develop more public attention to a project during the planning phases.

Formal support options include participation in the official comment period during the early stages of project development, participation in the objection process, and possible intervention in the legal process in the case of litigated by requesting 'intervenor' or 'amicus' status with the court, enabling us to file supporting briefs.

Scott Brennan, Wilderness Society, added to the discussion a brief recap of the Colt Summit project and a description of how the Wilderness Society worked to establish alliances among various partners in the area to build support for the project. In that process, thirteen principles of restoration werer used as criteria to build consensus and support.

John Prinkki recommended that the working group look at establishing sideboards, or selection criteria to assist in identifying projects which it should choose to actively support. This will be an action item for the next meeting.

Outreach and Communications.

Earl Atwood recommended to the group that it reserve a domain name to use creation of web site. Research indicates there are several suitable options available. This list was circulated, after which the group reached consensus to use CGWG.ORG. Earl will make arrangements to obtain the domain.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 12th, 2:00 PM at the Gallatin Dention Center. Suggested agenda items include: Sideboards for project Selection
Revised (Adopted version) Operations Manual
Updates on **Forests in Focus** and **Collaborative Foundation** meetings
DNRC Landscape maps

Chairman Prinkki thanked everyone in attendance, adjourning the meeting at 4:45 pm.